

**COUNCIL**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room with President Mark McKay presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call: J. McKay, present; Snarr, present; Fickert, present; Purkey, present; Eveland, present; Liermann, present; Swindler, present.

Chief Cravens was present as Sergeant at Arms.

Law Director Rudduck was absent.

*Council participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.*

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Motion by K. Swindler and seconded by J. McKay to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Agenda approved as presented.

President M. McKay asked if there were any changes to the minutes.

Motion by M. Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to approve July 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Stanforth noted the passing of Cliff Fahrer and Bob Holmes. Stanforth announced the cancellation of the Corn Festival, but the County Fair is currently going on at the fairgrounds. He stated the Farmer’s Market is being held Saturday mornings on Mulberry Street. Mayor Stanforth stated the gazebo at Point Park, built by Bruce Gulley, was recently demolished due to structural issues and rotten wood. He also stated the gazebo at Galvin Park is not as bad, but also has some of the same issues.

**AUDITOR**

Auditor Vance had no report.

**SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR**

B. Shidaker was absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION**

City Revitalization Committee – Chairperson M. Snarr had no report.

City Services Committee – Chairperson N. Eveland had two items to discuss, the first regarding the gazebo at Galvin Park. N. Eveland stated there are several issues with vagrancy and vandalism. N. Eveland introduced Bob Baylor from Friends of Galvin Park. Mr. Baylor went over the reasons the group was formed including the issues stated by N. Eveland. Mr. Baylor stated the goal is to make the parks as inviting as possible, and not let the fact that some are abusing the gazebo be reason enough to remove it. N. Eveland stated the Park Board’s main concern was the cost of the upkeep, and stated he thought that the city could supplement their budget in that effort.

N. Eveland stated to deal with the ongoing [vagrancy] problem, his committee will meet every two weeks and invite the Police Chief, Sheriff, and Law Director. He stated they can do fact finding to see what works and what city ordinances need to be changed.

N. Eveland also stated the cemetery budget will need to be looked at in this meeting as well because the funds are dwindling.

N. Eveland stated steps to clear out vagrant camps have been helpful but are not a solution. N. Eveland said Wilmington has become a magnet for other cities homeless people and he would like to know why they are coming here.

N. Eveland spoke briefly about the survey he received from the Clinton County Emergency Management Association in regard to the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. N. Eveland introduced EMA Director Tom Breckel to better explain the survey and the plan. Mr. Breckel stated the plan is updated every 5 years and the survey will provide input from the city and checking to see if the hazards reported in 2016 are still relevant. He stated the input from the surveys will be compiled into an updated plan.

K. Swindler asked if there should be more input from different leaders in the administration, for example Public Works Director Schaffer. She stated there could more information and varied responses from those with different skill sets. Clerk M. Miller stated that the Public Works Director, Safety Service Director, M & R Superintendent, Chief Cravens, Chief Mason, and Mayor Stanforth have all taken part in the survey.

Mr. Breckel stated they try to make the survey as broad as possible and do include a lot of different community members.

Finance Committee – Chairperson K. Fickert had two pieces of legislation to present.

K. Fickert introduced O-20-24 Making supplemental appropriations from the Taxi Fund to “Bureau of Employment Services” the sum of \$3,250.00, from the Local Coronavirus Relief Fund to “Grants” the sum of \$100,000.00, and from the Local Coronavirus Relief Fund to “Expenses/ Reimbursements” the sum of \$75,000.00

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-20-24 making supplemental appropriations.

7 yeas.

The Clerk M. Miller read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third readings on the Ordinance.

7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Clerk M. Miller read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to pass the Ordinance as read.

7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-20-24 passed as read.

K. Fickert introduced O-20-25 Making miscellaneous transfers from “Collection Vehicle Expense” to “Tech Services” the sum of \$500.00 and from “Insurance Deductibles & Claims Payments” to “Incidentals” the sum of \$5,000.00.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-20-25 making miscellaneous transfers.

7 yeas.

The Clerk M. Miller read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third readings on the Ordinance.

7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Clerk M. Miller read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to pass the Ordinance as read.  
7 yeas.  
Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-20-25 passed as read.

K. Fickert stated the tax deadline was July 15<sup>th</sup> and the updated information will be forthcoming.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson M. Purkey had no report.

Public Works Committee – Chairperson K. Swindler had one piece of legislation for a second and third reading on an Ordinance amending the Meter Service Fees.

Motion by K. Swindler and seconded by K. Fickert to suspend the rules and give a second and third reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-20-23 Amending Section 927.61, Meter Service Fee, of the Codified Ordinances.

7 yeas.

The Clerk M. Miller read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Swindler and seconded by K. Fickert to pass the Ordinance as read.

7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-20-23 passed as read.

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee- Chairperson J. McKay had no report.

## **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

A motion was made by M. Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to accept the Auditor Treasurer Report and the Six-Month Statement of Interest.

## **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Jason Stoops, 118 S. Mulberry Street, had concerns about Xidas Park and the homeless issue there. Mr. Stoops is concerned because it seems to be growing. He stated some people do not want help. They just want a handout, similar to stray cats, and he would like to see more progress. He stated he is available for input if needed.

K. Swindler stated she is glad community partners will be involved in the ongoing discussions. She stated she hopes as a community we are interested in solutions instead of trying to police the problem away without investing in the community and improving peoples lives in a way that is sustainable.

M. Purkey stated there was a task force put together last year involving the County and City regarding the issue of homelessness. Clerk M. Miller stated she would be happy to invite N. Eveland to the next meeting. It has been temporarily put on hold due to the pandemic. Clerk M. Miller stated a lot of the resources N. Eveland had mentioned previously were already in the works with the task force.

N. Eveland stated he didn't want to sound heartless, but there is a difference when people are sponging off of a generous community and when it's costing the city money and jobs. N. Eveland said he would encourage the Mayor and the President of Council to attend the committee meeting. N. Eveland continued to offer various other examples of issues stemming from homelessness. President McKay asked that the conversation, while a good discussion, could be truncated. He stated he looked forward to N. Everland's future committee meeting.

K. Swindler had a final comment and stated the language we use reflects our intentions and comparing human beings to stray cats is not conducive to future discussions.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by M. Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

Roll Call.

All yeas.

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by B. Liermann to return from Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Roll Call.

All yeas.

A motion was made by M. Purkey and seconded by K. Fickert to authorize the Mayor or designee to enter a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Wilmington Safety Association.

Roll Call.

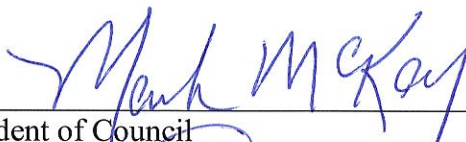
All yeas.

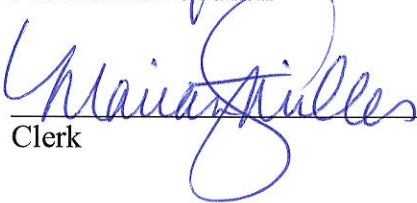
**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by B. Liermann at 8:47 p.m.

President M. McKay declared meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
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President of Council

  
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Clerk